

№34-JUNE

Romantic Adventures

10¢



SHE COMES INTO YOUR
ARMS...LIKE **THIS**...
BECAUSE SHE LOVES
YOU!

YOU...
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW
HOW **TRUE** THAT IS
...WITH YOU!

Can
A GIRL'S LIFE
AND LOVE BE BLIGHTED
BY SHEER LOVELI-
NESS? IT'S ALL IN
"**BEAUTY** is a
CURSE"
...A DIFFERENT
KIND OF
ROMANCE!



WEB COMIC
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Just Arrived! Famous PARIS SILHOUETTE

FASHION EXPERTS
acclaim amazing new girdle
GUARANTEED TO

REDUCER

**SLIM 3 INCHES OFF YOUR FIGURE
INTO NEW THIN STYLISH SILHOUETTE-
OR IT COSTS YOU NOTHING!**

**REDUCE
YOUR FIGURE
INSTANTLY!**

**NOW ONLY
\$5.98**

COMPARE with
girdles costing
\$10.00 and up!



DOWN STRETCH
BACK WILL
STRETCH WITH YOU

AVAILABLE
EXCLUSIVELY FROM US!

Style No. 605: 16" length—sizes 26 to 34
Style No. 805: 18" length—sizes 26 to 36

CONSTRUCTED TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL
SIZE IN OUR FACTORY

★ High waist eliminates "spare tire"—assures fashionable thin waist and teen-age appearance ★ Boned front to flatten and support stomach ★ Power elastic Leno side sections for slimming hip and thigh control ★ Extra high elastic band for comfortable stay-up support and hold-in power ★ ¾ length zipper makes it so easy to slip on or off ★ Satin Latex down stretch back gives you freedom of movement when you sit, bend, stretch or stand ★ High lustrous satin front ★ 4 long-life elastic-rubber garters ★ Custom tailored needwork ★ Expertly made by skilled handcraftsmen ★

For the first time in the U.S. comes a girdle that has been so well designed and constructed that we can assuredly guarantee it will take inches off your figure! Never before has a girdle received such high praise from leading fashion experts in helping women achieve the fashionable thin waist and long torso that is in style today. "PARIS SILHOUETTE" has been designed to give you the firm but gentle support that combines comfort with control! Now you can instantly look years younger and sizes smaller! Now with "PARIS SILHOUETTE" the smaller, fashionable sizes you've always wanted to wear will be within your reach!

HAPPY HEALTHY WAY TO
SLEEK, TEEN-AGE SLIMNESS!

For day-long support and comfort, PARIS SILHOUETTE has been designed and constructed of the highest quality materials to give you unmatched freedom-of-action! When you're walking, bending, stretching, sitting, working or relaxing or having fun—this incomparable girdle gives you unmatched soothing control! When your stomach muscles have proper support you feel full of pep and energy! If other foundation garments have let you down—here, for the first time is a girdle with stay-up, pull-in power that makes you feel great and look terrific!



Tailored with long Talon zipper—
easy to slip into, easy to slip off

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MAGIC-MOLD FASHIONS, Dept. 3518 H MAIL
467 Livonia Ave., B'klyn 7, N. Y.

Send me for 10 days' FREE TRIAL a Paris Silhouette Girdle. I will pay postman \$5.98 (plus postage). If I am not entirely satisfied I will return Paris Silhouette within 10 days for refund of purchase price.

My waist is... inches. Hips are... inches
Check ☐ 16" length or ☐ 18" length

Name

Address

City..... Zone..... State.....

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Enclose payment on Canadian or Foreign Orders

MAGIC-MOLD FASHIONS, 467 Livonia Ave., Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

ZIPS
UP
TO
MEET
THE
BRA



Beauty is a CURSE



ADMIRATION THE PLAUDITS GIVEN LOVELINESS... THESE WERE NOTHING TO ME! I'D BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO THEM SINCE CHILDHOOD...

THE WINNER OF THE CHILDREN'S BEAUTY CONTEST... GORGEOUS LITTLE **NINA RUSSELL**, OF NEW YORK!

CHATHAM SCHOOL
Beauty Contest



MEN NEVER KNEW ME AS A PERSON... AN INDIVIDUAL WITH THOUGHTS, HOPES, FEELINGS! INSTEAD I WAS A GILDED MASK OF SHEER BEAUTY... SOMETHING TO BE SOUGHT AFTER, PURSUED, LIKE A RARE AND PRECIOUS ORNAMENT! FOR OTHER GIRLS, THERE WAS TRUE LOVE, MARRIAGE, HAPPINESS... FOR ME, THE TRAGIC KNOWLEDGE THAT **BEAUTY IS A CURSE!**

AT FIRST IT WAS THRILLING, EXHILARATING... KNOWING THAT WHEREVER I WENT, I WAS THE CHOSEN ONE...



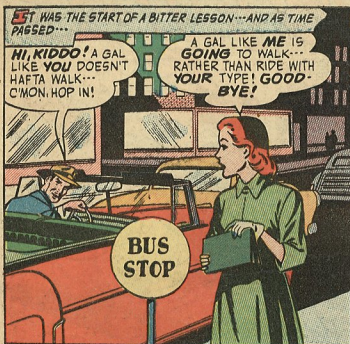
BUT I WAS GROWING OLDER... OLD ENOUGH TO DISCOVER THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN **DRAWBACKS** TO MY STATUS!

HIYA, BEAUTIFUL! WHERE YA GOIN'?

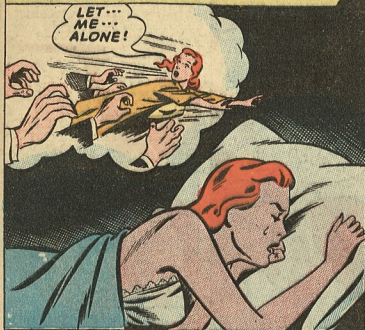
WOTCHA DOIN' TONIGHT, PRETTY-FACE?

THEY... THEY DON'T TALK THAT WAY TO THE OTHER GIRLS! THEY SHOW MORE... **RESPECT!**





THAT WAS MY LIFE...THE HOSTILITY OF WOMEN...THE GREEDY PURSUIT OF MEN! I HAD NO PEACE...IT HAUNTED MY DREAMS...



...AND THE RESULT WAS INEVITABLE! I WAS THE ONE IN MY GROUP LEFT UNMARRIED...WITH THE REALIZATION OF WHAT CONFRONTED ME!

A BEAUTY, BUT NEVER A BRIDE... THAT'S ME! I'D BETTER GIVE UP HOPING FOR LOVE AND MARRIAGE...AND THINK ABOUT A CAREER!



I...I DON'T HAVE ANY PROFESSION...SO IT'S A MATTER OF PICKING THE ONE THING I'M BEST SUITED FOR! WHAT ELSE BUT...A **MODEL**?



I WANTED TO GET PLACES, AND WAS WILLING TO WORK HARD TO GET MY START! INSTEAD...

I'VE HAD NO ACTUAL EXPERIENCE, MR. NILEN, BUT...



FORGET THAT...WITH THAT FACE AND FIGURE, YOU'RE A NATURAL TO GET TO THE TOP! FIRST COMES A BIG PROMOTION CAMPAIGN...AND THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO NAME OUR OWN PRICE IN GETTING YOU MODELING ASSIGNMENTS!

IT WASN'T LONG TILL FRED NILEN OF THE NILEN AGENCY PUT ME OVER...BUT BIG!

MY PICTURE ON THE COVER OF **LIVE** MAGAZINE! YOU'VE DONE **WONDERS**!



I ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF MY CLIENTS! IN YOUR CASE, THOUGH, BABY, I HAD A **PERSONAL** INTEREST!

EVER SINCE I SAW YOU, I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THOSE LIPS...AND NOW I'M GOING TO **FIND OUT!**

NOT THAT SAME OLD ROUTINE **AGAIN!** BROTHER...IT'S **NOT** BEEN NICE KNOWING YOU!



IT TOOK ALL MY EXPERIENCE TO BREAK FROM HIS EMBRACE AND LEAVE THE NILEN AGENCY FLAT! THIS MARKED AN END TO MY CAREER OF MODELING, I VOWED...BUT A FEW DAYS LATER...

THIS IS THE LE GRANDE MODEL AGENCY...**ROBERT LE GRANDE!** I SAW YOUR PICTURE ON THE COVER OF **LIVE**...AND I FEEL WE CAN GO PLACES, WORKING TOGETHER!

NO, THANK YOU...I'M **THROUGH** WITH MODELING!

BUT APPARENTLY MR. LE-GRANDE WAS HARD TO PERSUADE! FOR AN HOUR LATER, I OPENED MY DOOR TO...

I'M ROBERT LE GRANDE, MISS RUSSELL! I DON'T KNOW YOUR REASONS FOR NOT WANTING TO MODEL, BUT MINE IS A **STRICTLY BUSINESS** OFFER! \$10,000 MINIMUM FOR SIX MONTHS...AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN WALK OUT!

THE OFFER WAS FABULOUS...BUT EVEN MORE SO WAS THE MAN HIMSELF! NEVER HAD I KNOWN A HANDSOMER...OR MORE MAGNETIC! UNBIDDEN, THE ANSWER ROSE TO MY LIPS...

I'LL... GIVE YOUR OFFER A TRY!

GOOD! LET'S GET STARTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...WE'VE GOT **SOLID WORK** AHEAD!

MY FIRST POSE WAS A BATHING-SUIT JOB...AND I FELT A MOMENTARY PANG OF DISMAY! WAS LE GRANDE STRICTLY BUSINESS...OR WAS THIS JUST ANOTHER COME-ON?

RELAX, WON'T YOU? YOUR HAND...JUST ABOUT HERE, I THINK!

HIS TOUCH, IT...IT **DOES** THINGS TO ME! BUT LET HIM JUST **DARE** STEP OUT OF LINE, AND...

BUT INSTEAD... THERE... **THAT'S** THE POSE I WAS AFTER!

THIS IS...**CRAZY!** I WAS ALL SET TO LET HIM HAVE IT...AND NOW I'M **DIS-APPOINTED** THAT HE DIDN'T TRY TO KISS ME!

FOLLOWED WEEKS OF EXACTING TOIL...FOR ROBERT LE GRANDE WAS A STERN TASKMASTER! NEVER DID HE GIVE ME THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE TO OBJECT TO HIS BEHAVIOR...AND MY ADVERTISING ACCOUNTS AND BANK BALANCE GREW! IT WAS THE CAREER I'D SOUGHT...BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH! I WANTED...**LOVE!**



BUT LOVE, APPARENTLY, WAS THE ONE THING I WASN'T TO HAVE FROM THIS QUARTER! TRUE, I HAD HIS HARM AND SINCERE FRIENDSHIP...

THIS POSE IS TOO STIFF... I CAN FEEL IT!

YOU'RE TOO TENSE, NINA... YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD! LET'S KNOCK OFF AND GO FOR A WALK IN THE PARK!



NEVER THE SLIGHTEST PASS, NOT EVEN A GOOD-NIGHT KISS... NO MATTER HOW I HUNGURED FOR IT!

NIGHT, KID... SEE YOU AT THE OFFICE TOMORROW!

WHY SHOULD HE BE THE ONLY MAN I EVER MET... WHO DOESN'T FIND ME **DESIRABLE** ENOUGH?



NIGHT AFTER RESTLESS NIGHT I PONDERED OVER THE VEXING PROBLEM...

HAVE I LOST MY CHARM, MY APPEAL... OR IS IT JUST THAT HE'S A WOMAN-HATER? IT--IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL... JUST TO FEEL HIS LIPS...



I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN... BUT IT CAME ABOUT IN A STRANGE WAY...

NO... **NO!** HANG IT, HAVEN'T YOU EVER KISSED A WOMAN BEFORE? YOU DON'T **PECK** AT HER!



THE IDEA OF THIS AD IS THAT HER PERFUME INTOXICATES YOU, AND COMBINED WITH HER BEAUTY DRIVES YOU MAD! YOU CAN'T RESIST HER! YOU GRAB HER... **KISS HER**...



...LIKE THIS!

OH-HHH!



HOW CAN I TELL WHAT HIS LIPS DID TO ME? MY HEART THUDDING, MY SENSES REELED UNDER THIS STRANGE NEW ECSTASY... AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I KNEW THE TRUE MEANING OF **LOVE!**

WELL... I GUESS THEY DON'T WANT **ME** AROUND HERE ANYMORE!



WHEN WE PAUSED...STUNNED...
BREATHLESS...
WAS...WAS THAT
JUST FOR **DEMON-
STRATION**, BOB?

IT MIGHT HAVE
STARTED OUT
THAT WAY...
BUT I'M
AFRAID I GAVE
MYSELF AWAY!
YOU SEE...I'M
**CRAZY ABOUT,
YOU,
NINA!**

**GOLDEN WORDS, AND THEY HELD
RAPTURE FOR ME! HOW COULD I HELP
BUT THROW MYSELF INTO HIS ARMS
PLEDGING MYSELF TO HIM FOR NOW...
...FOR EVER!**

I LOVE
YOU...
**LOVE
YOU...**

MY...
NINA!

THERE WERE NO NIGHTMARES THAT
NIGHT...ONLY **BLISSFUL HAPPINESS...**

THESE MONTHS HE'S SPENT
LEARNING TO KNOW ME...
THEY HELPED OUR FRIEND-
SHIP BECOME **ROMANCE!**
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY
LIFE, SOMEONE LOVES ME
AS A **PERSON**...NOT
JUST FOR A HOLLOW
SHELL OF **BEAUTY!**

**NOW LIFE BECAME ONE ETERNAL SPRINGTIME! WE
WERE TOGETHER CONSTANTLY...DURING THE DAY AT WORK,
AND AT NIGHT WHEN THE MAGIC CARPET OF ROMANCE
WAS OURS!**

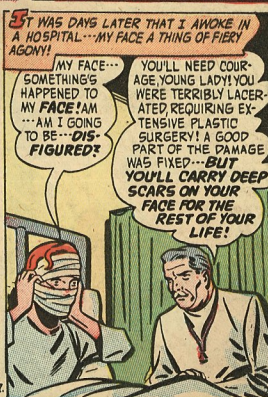
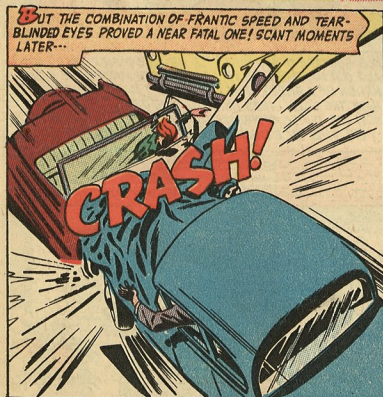
**AND THEN, LIKE A BOLT FROM THE BLUE...THAT
TRAGIC MORNING! I HAD ARRIVED AT WORK EARLIER
THAN USUAL...**

GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU FOR
KEEPING HOLD OF THAT RUSSELL
GAL, BOB! NOW I KNOW WHY YOU
WANTED THE LOWDOWN ON
WHY SHE'D LEFT **MY** PLACE!
YOU PROFITED FROM MY
MISTAKES, EH?

WHY, THAT'S
...**FRED
NILEN'S
VOICE!**

I SURE DID, FRED! WHEN YOU TOLD ME SHE'D
LEFT IN A HUFF BECAUSE YOU'D MADE A PASS
AT HER, I KNEW SHE WAS THE TYPE WHO HAD TO
BE HANDLED **CAREFULLY!** THAT'S WHY I
PLAYED MY CARDS DIFFERENTLY! I INTRIGUED
HER BY **NOT** MAKING PASSES...AND WAITED
TILL I KNEW HER BETTER
BEFORE EVEN
KISSING HER!

OH-HH!



SCARRED FOR LIFE! THE KNOWLEDGE TORTURED ME IN THE TERRIBLE DAYS OF MY CONVALESCENCE! ROMANCE AND BEAUTY WERE BOTH THINGS OF THE PAST NOW! NO LONGER WOULD I EVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING LOVED FOR MYSELF... **FOR THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE LEFT!**

BOB HADN'T EVEN... COME TO SEE ME... WHICH PROVES I WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM! HE ONLY WANTED MY BEAUTY... IT WAS VALUABLE TO HIS AGENCY! AND NOW... **HE'S FINISHED WITH ME!**



NO ONE CAN DESCRIBE THE DESPAIR OF THAT DAY WHEN FOR THE FIRST TIME I GAZED UPON MY SCARRED FACE! BUT THEN...

THIS IS... WHAT'S LEFT OF ME! IT'S... **UGLY...**

NO, DARLING... IT COULDN'T BE! YOU'LL **ALWAYS** BE BEAUTIFUL... TO ME!



HE WHIRLED AT THAT FAMILIAR VOICE, INSTINCTIVELY COVERING MY FACE...

YOU! WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR... TO MOCK ME?

NO... JUST TO TELL YOU THAT I LOVED YOU BEFORE... LOVE YOU **NOW**... AND WILL **ALWAYS** LOVE YOU! I PURPOSELY WAITED UNTIL YOUR BANDAGES WERE OFF, TO PROVE IT MADE **NO DIFFERENCE TO ME!**



DON'T YOU **GET IT?** IT'S **YOU** I LOVE... THE FINE PERSON YOU ARE... NOT THE BEAUTY YOU HAPPENED TO HAVE! I DISCOVERED THAT THE FIRST TIME I KISSED YOU! MATTER OF FACT, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL **THAT** TO FRED NILEN WHEN YOU BUTTED IN ON US! AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT...

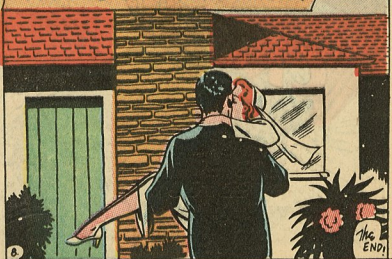


...MAYBE **THIS** WILL CONVINCE YOU... **SWEETHEART!**

MY... DARLING!



THE ECSTASY OF HIS KISS TOLD ME ALL I'D EVER NEED KNOW! AND OUR MARRIAGE, THE FOLLOWING WEEK, MARKED THE CULMINATION OF A SWEET AND TENDER LOVE! MAYBE I **DIDN'T** HAVE THE LOVELINESS WHICH ONCE HAD BEEN MINE! BUT NOW THE CURSE OF BEAUTY HAD BEEN FOREVER REPLACED... **BY THE BLESSING OF HAPPINESS!**



What every girl should know about Pimples



Psychologists warn that pimples undermine self-confidence... may even cause permanent damage to your personality.

Skin Specialists warn neglect of pimples can result in permanent scars. CLEARASIL, the sensational, scientific medication especially for pimples may save you from these *double dangers*.

DOCTORS' TESTS PROVE CLEARASIL works amazingly on 8 out of 10 to **DRY UP PIMPLES**

SKIN-COLORED Hides blemishes while it works

IT'S TRUE! CLEARASIL has proved so effective that it brings entirely new hope to pimple sufferers. In skin specialists' tests on 200 patients, CLEARASIL brought amazing relief to 8 out of every 10.

AMAZING STARVING ACTION. CLEARASIL is greaseless and fast-drying in contact with pimples. Actually starves pimples because it helps remove the oils* that pimples "feed" on. *Antiseptic*, stops growth of bacteria that can cause and spread pimples.

INSTANT RELIEF from embarrassment because CLEARASIL is skin-colored. And CLEARASIL is greaseless...stainless. Pleasant to leave on day and night for uninterrupted medication.



THOUSANDS HAIL CLEARASIL. So many boys, girls, adults found that CLEARASIL works, it's become the largest-selling specific medication for pimples in America**

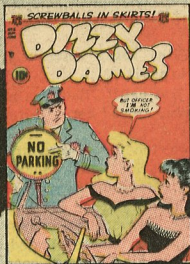
Reader's Digest reported on clinical tests using CLEARASIL type medication.

GUARANTEED to work for you as it did in doctors' tests or money back. Get CLEARASIL at druggists.

AT ALL DRUGGISTS Only 59¢



*Over-activity of certain oil glands is recognized by authorities as a major factor in acne.
**According to actual store surveys.



EXTRA!

NEW COMIC BREAKS ALL RECORDS!

DIZZY DAMES

JAMMED COVER TO COVER WITH FAST AND FURIOUS FUN FROM THE CRAZIEST COLLECTION OF DIZZY, DAFFY DREAMBOATS EVER! SENSATIONAL SCREWBALLS IN SKIRTS... CHOCKFUL OF CHUCKLES AND LOADED WITH LAFFS! RESERVE YOUR COPY **NOW!**

STARS & EYES

"THIS IS THE last time," Ellen promised herself as she climbed the steps to the roof of the apartment house. "I'll tell him so tonight!"

He was waiting for her, she knew, his cigarette making a little burnt-orange light in the night. Nervously, she again rehearsed what she'd been rehearsing since last night, when she'd had a date with Stan Bellows, the boss's son.

Stan had taken her out to a good restaurant. He never seemed to glance at the prices on the menu, ordering the most expensive foods with an accustomed air. And he'd admired Ellen with his eyes all through dinner and later, when they went driving, he'd admired her with words, with promises, with...kisses!

"You're lovely," he'd said. "I've had my eye on you ever since you came to work for dad, but you always seemed to be tied up! Tell me, Ellen, have you got a guy? A steady one, I mean?"

Thinking of Bud, Ellen had answered haltingly, contradicting herself. "No...yes...I mean he's...well..."

"If you're not sure, it can't be serious," Stan had said. "In which case..." Then he'd reached for her and taken her into his arms. His lips had touched hers in a light kiss which grew suddenly deeper and more demanding.

It hadn't been unpleasant, Ellen remembered. Just...not special! But there were other things that *were* special about Stan! His family was rich, respected. He lived in a part of town that to Ellen was a far-away fairyland, peopled with gracious creatures who lived comfortably.

"Not like this! Not like us!" she thought, wrinkling her nose at the cooking odors that filled the hallway, even as high as the roof steps.

"Bud will understand! He won't blame me! He *wants* me to have all those things, that kind of life! He would give them to me himself...if he could! He says he will, some day! But...but..."

Bud had a fair job and a fair future. No chance there for the lavish life of servants and leisure, of never caring about the right-hand side of the menu. Yes, she would tell him...now!

The roof door, heavy on its iron chains, swung open with a rusty screech and Ellen was on the roof. There was the little burnt-orange signal. There was Bud, turning to greet her, his smile flashing white in the darkness.

"Bud..." Ellen began tentatively, wondering how to put it.

"Don't talk just yet!" Bud was at her side, his arms around her. "First..."

His mouth was on hers, warm and wonderful. Her heart lifted to his, throbbing wildly. Her arms went about his neck, her hands touched his hair tenderly. Their kiss seemed to last forever and yet, when they separated, it seemed that the kiss had not been long enough.

The lights of the apartment houses swam in Ellen's eyes like twinkling stars. This wasn't a roof-top, but a penthouse! And Bud...Bud...his arms...his kisses...

"What were you going to say, darling?" Bud asked.

"Nothing," Ellen whispered. "Nothing, my darling!"

Miner's Romance

You've read dozens of love stories where poor girl meets rich boy... poor girl wants rich boy... poor girl gets rich boy!

But here's a romance with a *DIFFERENCE*, where poor boy meets rich girl... poor boy **DOESN'T** want rich girl... poor boy --- well, read on and find out the ending for yourself!



AS THE ONLY CHILD OF A WEALTHY MINE OWNER, I'D ALWAYS HAD EVERYTHING I EVER WANTED --- INCLUDING MONEY AND MEN! BUT THE MEN I KNEW ALL BORED ME-- BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL SO FAWNING IN THEIR DEFERENCE TO MY WEALTH AND POSITION!



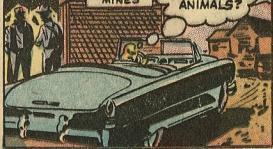
THERE WAS ANOTHER TYPE OF MALE I OCCASIONALLY CAME INTO CONTACT WITH-- THE MEN WHO WORKED AT MY FATHER'S MINES --- BUT TO ME THEY WERE MERELY PARTS OF A VAST MACHINE WHICH SUPPLIED ME WITH ALL MY NEEDS!

WOW! LOOK AT THAT CLASSY CHASSIS!

THE CAR OR THE DAME?

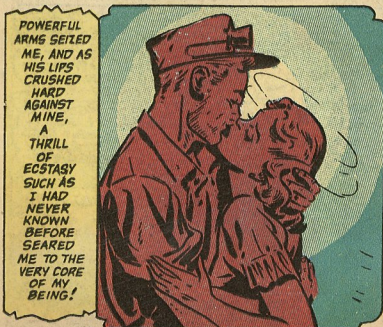
I GUESS I SHOULD RESENT THAT-- BUT HOW CAN I OBJECT TO SUCH STUPID ANIMALS?

NO. 4 • STANTON MINES •





GRIM, WEARY MEN WORKING LIKE BEASTS, MAKING MONEY FOR ME! AND, AMAZINGLY, ONE MAN WHO SEEMED DIFFERENT-- WHOSE BRAVNY GOOD LOOKS MADE SOMETHING STIR WITHIN ME! SEEMING TO SENSE MY THOUGHTS, HE GRINNED TANTALIZINGLY-- AND I DETERMINED TO PUNISH HIM, BREAK HIS PRIDE!





I... I HAPPEN TO BE **ELINDOR STANTON** --- AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT MY FATHER **FIRES** YOU!

SO YOU'RE THE BOSS'S DAUGHTER, EH? WELL, YOU RATE STRICTLY ZERO IN MY BOOK, MISS CAPITALIST-- AND I DON'T GIVE A HOOT WHETHER YOU HAVE ME FIRED OR NOT!

SOMEHOW, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL FATHER WHAT HAD HAPPENED! AND ALL THAT SLEEPLESS NIGHT, I COULDN'T RID MY MIND OF THE TANTALIZING IMAGE OF THAT KISS!



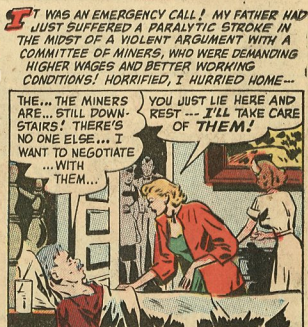
WHAT IS THERE ABOUT HIM THAT INTRIGUES ME SO? WHY DON'T I WANT TO HAVE HIM FIRED?



UNABLE TO ANSWER THE TAUNTING QUESTIONS, I TRIED DESPERATELY TO FORGET THE MAN WHO HAD DISTURBED ME SO! I FLUNG MYSELF INTO A ROUND OF PARTIES, OF DATES WITH MANY MEN-- BUT NONE OF THEIR KISSES COULD DISPEL THE MEMORY OF ONE UNFORGETTABLE EMBRACE!

HE-- HE LEAVES ME COLD! BUT THAT MINER --

MISS STANTON, PHONE CALL FOR YOU!



THE... THE MINERS ARE... STILL DOWN-STAIRS! THERE'S NO ONE ELSE... I WANT TO NEGOTIATE ...WITH THEM...

YOU JUST LIE HERE AND REST --- I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!



BUT DOWNSTAIRS, I FOUND THE ONE MAN WHOM I **HADN'T** BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE THE ONE PREVIOUS TIME WE'D MET!

YOU... YOU'RE HERE!

I'M MONTE SAWYER, HEAD OF THE MINERS' BARGAINING COMMITTEE! I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER-- BUT WE'RE GOING OUT ON STRIKE UNLESS OUR DEMANDS ARE GRANTED!



I'M CARRYING ON FOR DAD -- AND I'M NOT FORGETTING THAT YOU'RE PROBABLY THE ONE WHOSE UNREASONABLE DEMANDS CAUSED HIS STROKE!

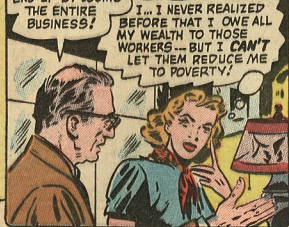
UNREASONABLE? IT'S BECAUSE YOUR FAMILY WON'T GRANT US BETTER WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS THAT THE MEN ARE SICK AND THEIR FAMILIES IN WANT! I'M WARNING YOU --- TURN DOWN OUR REQUEST AND YOU SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

I KNEW THAT I HATED THIS MAN, AND DIDN'T HESITATE TO TURN DOWN THE MINERS' DEMANDS AND ORDER THEM FROM THE HOUSE! BUT THE NEXT DAY, AT A MEETING WITH THE MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS--

YOU FAIL TO REALIZE, MISS STANTON, THAT A STRIKE WOULD BE COSTLY TO THE COMPANY AS WELL AS TO THE WORKERS! IF THEY DON'T MINE COAL, YOU WON'T MAKE ANY PROFITS--AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY OFF THE HEAVY INDEBTEDNESS THE COMPANY IS BURDENED WITH! YOU MIGHT END UP BY LOSING

THE ENTIRE BUSINESS!

I... I NEVER REALIZED BEFORE THAT I OWE ALL MY WEALTH TO THOSE WORKERS--BUT I CAN'T LET THEM REDUCE ME TO POVERTY!



SUDDENLY, AN INSPIRED IDEA CAME TO ME! I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO TO KEEP THE MINES OPERATING, AND AT THE SAME TIME GET EVEN WITH THE MAN I HATED!

I COULD TELL FROM THAT FIRST KISS HOW STRONGLY DRAWN MONTE SAWYER WAS TO ME! ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS PLAY UP TO HIM, MAKE HIM FALL IN LOVE WITH ME UNTIL HE'LL DO ANYTHING I WANT! I'LL PERSUADE HIM TO SIGN A NEW CONTRACT AT THE OLD WAGES AND CONDITIONS--AND THEN DISCARD HIM!



AND SO I SUMMONED MONTE SAWYER TO MY HOME THAT NIGHT! I MADE SURE, OF COURSE, THAT I WAS DRESSED IN MY MOST ALLURING GOWN...

WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH ME, MISS STANTON? FINALLY DECIDE TO GRANT OUR DEMANDS?

IT'S MUCH TOO HOT TO DISCUSS BUSINESS HERE! SHALL WE GO OUT ON THE TERRACE, WHERE IT'S COOL... AND PRIVATE?



I DID HAVE SOME BUSINESS IN MIND-- BUT NOW THAT I'M SO CLOSE TO YOU, I... I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE THING...

THAT... THAT PERFUME MAKES MY HEAD SWIM! AND YOUR LIPS... SO KISSABLE...!



JUST AS I'D ANTICIPATED, HE COULDN'T RESIST ME! THIS WAS TO HAVE BEEN PLAYACTING ON MY PART--BUT WITH HIS FIERCE EMBRACE CAME SOMETHING UNEXPECTED... A REPETITION OF THE SEARING ECSTASY THAT HAD COURSED THROUGH MY VEINS THAT FIRST TIME!



BUT THIS TIME IT WAS HE WHO FLUNG ME ASIDE AT HEIGHT OF OUR EMBRACE!

YOU--YOU SCHEMING, TREACHEROUS FEMALE... I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO! YOU WANT TO WIN ME OVER TO YOUR SIDE WITH YOUR GLAMOR AND WILES--BUT IT WON'T WORK! I MAY HAVE LOST MY HEAD FOR A MOMENT, BUT I HAVEN'T LOST MY HEART! I WON'T BETRAY MY KIND FOR A JEZEBEL LIKE YOU!



HE STORMED OUT--- AND IT WAS AS IF A WINDOW HAD SUDDENLY OPENED IN MY HEART!
I KNEW THAT I HAD DELUDED MYSELF AS TO THE REAL REASON FOR MY PLAN-- I HAD WANTED HIM TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME BECAUSE--



I SOBBED MYSELF TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT-- ONLY TO AWAKEN TO --



WE WANT **FAIR TREATMENT FROM THE STANTONS!**

I... I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE HIM, KNOWING THAT THERE'LL ALWAYS BE THIS VOID BETWEEN US! I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE -- GET AWAY FROM HERE!



BUT BEFORE I LEFT, THERE WAS ONE THING I HAD TO DO...

OKAY, WHAT DID YOU CALL ME IN FOR **THIS** TIME? IF IT'S TO TRY ANY MORE OF YOUR SCHEMING TRICKS---

NO--- I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I'M GRANTING THE MINERS' DEMANDS FOR **BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS AND PAY--** AND THAT I'M LEAVING THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMPANY UP TO A JOINT COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT AND LABOR! YOU SEE, I'M GOING **ABROAD** -- I-I CAN SEE I'M NOT WANTED **HERE!**



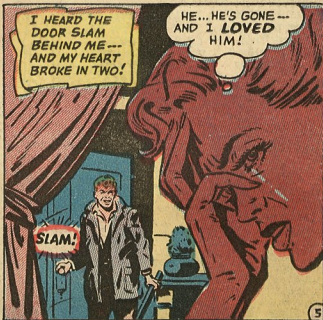
THAT... THAT'S ALL--- YOU CAN GO NOW!

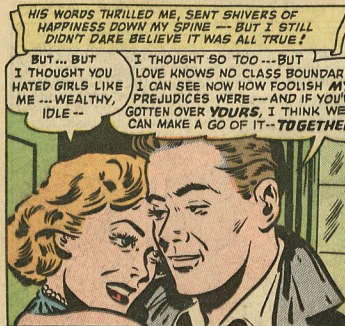
WELL, OKAY... IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT!



I HEARD THE DOOR SLAM BEHIND ME--- AND MY HEART BROKE IN TWO!

HE... HE'S GONE--- AND I **LOVED** HIM!





AGE *Against* AMOUR

CAN A GIRL FALL DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH A MAN MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS HER SENIOR -- COULD A MARRIAGE BETWEEN THEM BE A HAPPY ONE? I WAS SURE I KNEW THE ANSWER-- UNTIL A MORE YOUTHFUL SWEETHEART CAME ALONG-- TO COMPLICATE ONE OF THE MOST TORMENTING PROBLEMS ANY GIRL HAS EVER FACED!

BUT HE'S TWICE YOUR AGE -- OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR FATHER! YOU CAN'T LOVE HIM-- YOU CAN'T!

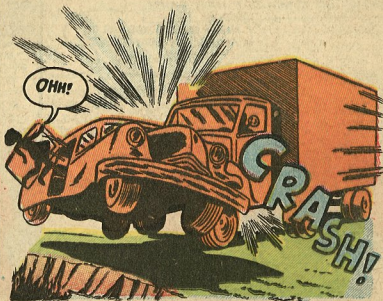
BUT I *DO* LOVE HIM-- I *DO*!



PERHAPS THIS IS AN ODD WAY FOR A LOVE AFFAIR TO START -- BUT IT HAPPENS TO BE THE WAY MY ROMANCE WITH VINCENT HOLLOWAY BEGAN!

ANDREW-- LOOK OUT!

THAT... THAT TRUCK DRIVER MUST BE DRUNK! WE'RE GOING TO--



WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, I LEARNED THAT MY PARENTS HAD PERISHED! IT WAS ALMOST TOO MUCH FOR A GIRL OF TWELVE TO BEAR, FOR I HAD LOST ALL I HELD DEAR IN THE WORLD-- ALL EXCEPT "UNCLE" VINCENT HOLLOWAY, MY FATHER'S BEST FRIEND AND BUSINESS PARTNER!

JIM FLED SWIFTLY UNDER THE CONSIDERATE GUIDANCE OF MY NEW-FOUND "FATHER." HE WAS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION-- AND I GREW TO LOVE HIM MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF!

OH, UNCLE VINCE-- SOB!-- YOU-- YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I HAVE LEFT!

DON'T WORRY, JUDY-- I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU! I'M **ADOPTING** YOU-- AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU GET ALL THE LOVE AND AFFECTION YOUR PARENTS WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU!



YOU REALLY OUGHT TO HAVE HAD SOME BOYS YOUR **OWN** AGE HERE AT YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY, DARLING! YOU'RE THE ONLY GIRL I'VE EVER HEARD OF WHO'S

SWEET SIX-TEEN AND ACTUALLY **NEVER** BEEN KISSED!

BUT I DON'T **WANT** TO BE-- EXCEPT BY **YOU!**



EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT--UNTIL HIS BUSINESS TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA SEPARATED US! I **PLEADED** WITH HIM TO TAKE ME ALONG, BUT HE INSISTED THAT I GO TO FINISHING SCHOOL!

SORRY, JUDY--YOUR PARENTS WANTED YOU TO HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION-- AND I **AGREE!** BUT MAYBE IT'LL HELP IF YOU KNOW THAT I... I'LL MISS **YOU** TERRIBLY, TOO!

PLEASE, VINCE-- **PLEASE...**



AT SCHOOL, I EXPERIENCED THE ANGUISH OF LONELINESS FOR THE FIRST TIME! I HAD LITTLE IN COMMON WITH THE OTHER GIRLS, WHO SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME GUSHING ABOUT THEIR BOYFRIENDS --AND LAUGHING AT ME!

POOR JUDY-- SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BEAU--THE ONLY PICTURE SHE CAN HANG UP IS ONE OF HER **FATHER!**

HE... HE'S MY BOYFRIEND--THE MAN I'M GOING TO **MARRY!**



They **SNICKERED**-- WHICH ONLY FANNED THE FLAMES OF MY DETERMINATION TO LIVE UP TO WHAT I HAD SAID!

HA-- SHE'S GOING TO MARRY A MAN **TWICE** HER AGE!

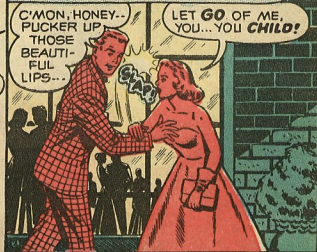
WHY CAN'T I MARRY HIM? HE LOVES ME AND I LOVE HIM--WHAT MORE DO WE NEED TO BUILD A HAPPY MARRIAGE UPON?



FED BY LONELINESS, MY LOVE FOR VINCE SOARED TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS-- AND WHEN I ATTENDED DANCES WITH BOYS FROM NEIGHBORING SCHOOLS, I DETESTED THEIR CALLOW IMMATURITY!

C'MON, HONEY-- PUCKER UP-- THOSE BEAUTIFUL LIPS...

LET GO OF ME, YOU... YOU **CHILD!**



I DIDN'T SEE VINCE AGAIN UNTIL I WAS 20, AND THROUGH WITH SCHOOL FOR GOOD! THEN, WHEN HE MET ME AT THE AIRPORT, MY HEART FAIRLY BURST WITH HAPPINESS!

VINCE!

JUDY!



WE RUSHED INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS-- AND WHAT STARTED OUT AS A KISS OF GREETING TURNED INTO SOMETHING-- **DIFFERENT!** HIS LIPS MET MINE LOVINGLY, TENDERLY-- AND I FELT THAT THE SWEET JOYOUSNESS THAT SWEEPED THROUGH ME COULD ONLY BE **TRUE LOVE!**

JUDY--
I... I---

I... I LOVE
HIM-- **LOVE**
HIM!



When we finally parted, we looked at each other wonderingly-- and it was then that I noticed his greying hair for the first time!

HE... HE'S **OLDER** THAN I REMEMBERED! BUT WHAT DOES **AGE** MATTER-- AS LONG AS I **LOVE** HIM?

WHY, I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D BE SO UTTERLY **BEAUTIFUL**, JUDY! I SEE YOU NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME-- AS A **WOMAN!**



As we drove home--

I... I **MISSED** you, darling! WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS THE LONELINESS I FELT BEING AWAY FROM YOU FOR SO LONG!

BUT WE'RE TOGETHER **NOW**, VINCE-- AND WE'LL NEVER PART AGAIN!



WE WERE INSEPARABLE THOSE FIRST FEW WEEKS-- AND I HOPED IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE HE **REALLY** BEGAN THINKING OF ME AS A WOMAN-- AND AS A POSSIBLE **BRIDE!**



But, ALMOST EVERYWHERE WE WENT, VICIOUS TONGUES WAGGED!

THERE'S VINCENT HOLLOWAY-- ROMANCING HIS WARD **AGAIN!**

HE OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF HIMSELF! HE'S OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER!



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, JUDY-- I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAD A **SERIOUS TALK!**

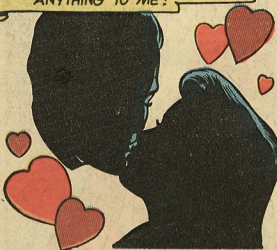
Later--

I'VE BEEN THINKING, JUDY-- ISN'T IT TIME YOU STARTED GOING OUT WITH BOYS YOUR **OWN** AGE? YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT FALLING IN **LOVE--** AND GETTING **MARRIED!**

BUT... BUT I **AM** IN LOVE-- AND **YOU'RE** THE MAN I'VE **ALWAYS** WANTED TO MARRY!



WE SEALED OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH A KISS, AND I KNEW THAT MY HEART'S FONDEST DESIRE WOULD SOON BE ATTAINED-- MARRIAGE TO THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WHO MEANT ANYTHING TO ME!



THERE WAS A COMPELLING BOYISHNESS IN THIS STRANGER'S EYES WHICH SOMEHOW-- **FRIGHTENED** ME! I TURNED QUICKLY TO AVOID HIM, BUT--

HI, FOLKS-- JUST ARRIVE? MY NAME'S TODD HANLEY -- AND I'M LOOKING FOR A TEAM TO JOIN US IN SOME TENNIS DOUBLES THIS AFTERNOON!

WELL, I HAVEN'T PLAYED IN QUITE A FEW YEARS-- BUT I **USED** TO BE GOOD! YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A MATCH!



I HAD BLURTED OUT THE WORDS UNINTENTIONALLY -- BUT THEN, AS VINCE ENFOLDED ME IN LOVING ARMS, I WAS **GLAD** I HAD SAID THEM!

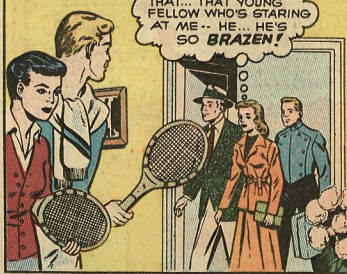
OH, JUDY, **JUDY!** THIS IS MORE THAN I EVER DARED **HOPE** FOR! UNTIL RECENTLY, I THOUGHT OF YOU ONLY AS A **CHILD--** BUT NOW YOU'RE A **WOMAN--** AND I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU ALWAYS!

YES, VINCE-- **YES!** JUST THE TWO OF US **TOGETHER--** JUST LIKE IT USED TO BE!



TO CELEBRATE OUR ENGAGEMENT, WE WENT TO A SUMMER RESORT HOTEL! THERE--

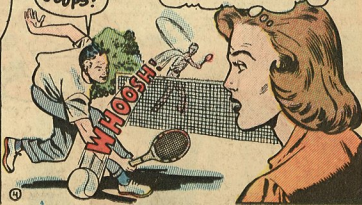
THAT... THAT YOUNG FELLOW WHO'S STARING AT ME-- HE... HE'S SO **BRAZEN!**



THAT AFTERNOON, I FOUND THAT AGE **DID** MAKE A DIFFERENCE-- AT LEAST WHERE **TENNIS** WAS CONCERNED-- FOR TODD HANLEY'S VIGOROUS SHOTS HAD VINCE RUNNING OPEN-MOUTHED ALL OVER THE COURT!

THAT IDIOT TODD-- WHY DOESN'T HE HAVE ENOUGH SENSE TO TAKE IT **EASY!**

Ooops!



After THE GAME--

I... I'M BEAT, JUDY!
I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE
TO GO TO BED RIGHT
AFTER DINNER-- AND
SLEEP OFF SOME OF
THESE KINKS IN
MY MUSCLES!

YES, DEAR--
THAT'S A
VERY
GOOD
IDEA!



There WAS A STRANGE, UNDEFINED LONGING WITHIN
ME THAT EVENING AS I DECIDED TO TAKE A STROLL
IN THE NIGHT AIR! AS SOON AS I
CAME DOWNSTAIRS--

HI, JUDY! I'VE BEEN **WAITING**
FOR YOU TO COME DOWN--
WITHOUT YOUR **FATHER!**
DID YOU BRING HIM
ALONG AS A
CHAPERONE?

HE'S **NOT**
MY FATHER
-- BUT MY
FIANCÉ!



WHAT?
ARE YOU
KIDDING?
HE'S OLD
ENOUGH--

LOVE KNOWS NO **AGE** LIMITS,
MR. TODD-- AND I DON'T
INTEND TO LISTEN TO ANY
LECTURES ON THE
SUBJECT FROM--
YOU! GOOD-NIGHT!



WAIT, I'M SORRY
I WAS SO RUDE--
AND I'D LIKE TO
MAKE AMENDS!
CAN'T WE SIT AND
TALK AWHILE--
SO THAT I CAN
PROVE MYSELF
A GENTLE-
MAN?

WELL-- I... I
DON'T GET THE
HARM IN
THAT!



But MY HEART WAS POUNDING
STRANGELY, MYSTERIOUSLY! THERE
WAS SOMETHING-- IRRESISTIBLE--
ABOUT TODD. SOMETHING WHICH
FRIGHTENED ME! WITHIN A FEW
MINUTES, IT WAS AS IF I HAD
KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS-- AND I
FOUND MYSELF TELLING HIM
EVERYTHING ABOUT MY RELATION-
SHIP WITH VINCE! THEN--

A SINGLE DANCE-- IT SHOULD
HAVE MEANT NOTHING! INSTEAD,
IT THREW ME INTO A WHIRL-
POOL OF CONFUSION! **NEVER**
HAD I KNOWN SUCH THROB-
BING, STIRRING EMOTIONS AS
WHEN TODD HELD ME CLOSE--
NEVER HAD MY HEART RACED
SO WILDLY AT THE FEEL OF A
MAN'S CHEEK AGAINST MINE!

BUT THERE WAS MORE TO
COME-- FOR AFTER SEEING
ME TO THE DOOR OF MY
ROOM, TODD SUDDENLY
PULLED ME INTO HIS ARMS--
AND AT THE TOUCH OF HIS
LIPS, HIDDEN DEPTHS OF
ECSTASY WERE
AWAKENED
IN ME!

IT'S GETTING RATHER CHILLY
OUT HERE, JUDY-- WHAT SAY
WE JOIN THE DANCERS
INSIDE?

ALL... ALL
RIGHT!



IT... IT'S SO
WONDERFUL--
BUT IT'S--
DANGEROUS!



WH-WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?



FOR A FEW RAPTUROUS MOMENTS, I SUCCUMBED TO THE BREATHLESS ARDOR -- BUT THEN, VINCE'S FACE FLASHED BEFORE MY MIND!

YOU... YOU WERE GOING TO PROVE YOURSELF A GENTLEMAN-- BUT YOU ONLY PROVED YOURSELF CONTEMPTIBLE!

LISTEN, JUDY-- I **HAD** TO BREAK MY PROMISE! YOU THINK YOU'RE IN **LOVE** WITH VINCE, BUT YOU'RE **NOT**!



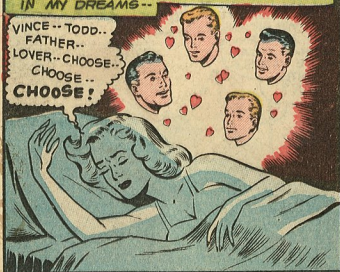
YOU'VE JUST TRANSFERRED ALL THE AFFECTION YOU'D NORMALLY FEEL TOWARDS A **REAL** FATHER TO HIM! THE EMOTION IS GENUINE ENOUGH-- BUT IT'S NOT **LOVE**!

WHATEVER YOU CALL IT-- IT'S ENOUGH FOR **ME**-- ENOUGH TO GET **MARRIED** ON!



I THOUGHT MY MIND WAS MADE UP-- BUT MY HEART SPOKE OTHERWISE! FOR ALL THAT NIGHT-- AS FACES KEPT WHIRLING AROUND IN MY DREAMS--

VINCE-- TODD-- FATHER-- LOVER-- CHOOSE-- CHOOSE-- CHOOSE!



BUT IN THE MORNING, MY UNCERTAINTY WAS DISPELLED! FOR WHEN THE DEAR FIGURE OF VINCE CAME LIMPING TOWARD ME STIFF-MUSCLED-- MY HEART WENT OUT TO HIM IN A SURGE OF OVERWHELMING TENDERNESS!

I... I **DO** LOVE VINCE-- I **DO**! BUT TODD IS TOO GREAT A TEMPTATION-- I MIGHT SURRENDER TO-- TO **INFATUATION**! UNLESS---



VINCE-- JUDY, SWEETHEART! LET'S IF YOU'RE **SURE**-- LET'S I'LL GO TO MY ROOM AND START **PACKING** **IMMEDIATELY**! **GET MARRIED -- TODAY!**



YES, I WAS SURE! AS I WAS PACKED, A KNOCK BOUNDED ON THE DOOR! I TURNED, THINKING IT WAS VINCE--

OH-- IT'S YOU!

SURE, I WAS JUST-- HEY! WHAT ARE YOU **PACKING** FOR?



I'M LEAVING-- TO MARRY VINCE-- **TODAY** -- AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!

OH, NO? WE'LL GEE ABOUT **THAT**!





STOP! LET ME GO---

NOT UNTIL YOU COME TO YOUR **SENSES!**

HIS STRONG ARMS CRUSHED ME TO HIM! I STRUGGLED, BUT MY RESISTANCE EBBED QUICKLY -- AS FLAMING RAPTURE CLAIMED ME! MY BRAIN REELED, SLOWLY MY ARMS STOLE AROUND HIM-- AND I MET HIS LIPS WITH A TEMPESTUOUS ARDOR WHOSE MEANING WAS UNMISTAKABLE!

OH, TODD-- HOLD ME--
HOLD ME TIGHT!



WHEN HE RELEASED ME, I WAS LIMP WITH EMOTION-- AND WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT-- I LOVED HIM!

YOU... YOU WERE **RIGHT**, TODD! I... I CAN'T **HELP** MYSELF... I **DO**

LOVE YOU-- IN A WAY I COULD NEVER LOVE VINCE!
OF COURSE, DARLING-- THIS IS **DIFFERENT**-- THE LOVE OF A WOMAN FOR A MAN-- NOT THAT OF A CHILD FOR A FATHER!



BUT... BUT HOW CAN I **TELL** VINCE? HE... HE LOVES ME SO MUCH-- IT'LL **KILL** HIM!

NONSENSE-- HE PROBABLY KNEW DEEP IN HIS HEART THAT THIS **HAD** TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER! BUT THE LONGER YOU WAIT TO TELL HIM, THE MORE IT WILL HURT! COME-- LET'S GO TO HIS ROOM!



IT TOOK SEVERAL MINUTES FOR ME TO STEEL MYSELF TO THE ORDEAL! FINALLY, WHEN WE WENT TO VINCE'S ROOM, A BELLHOP INTERCEPTED US-- WITH A NOTE!

OH-- IT'S FROM **VINCE**-- AND HE KNOWS ABOUT US! IT... IT SAYS THAT HE NOW REALIZES THAT HE'S STANDING IN THE WAY OF MY **TRUE** HAPPINESS! OH, TODD-- **HE'S GOING AWAY!**

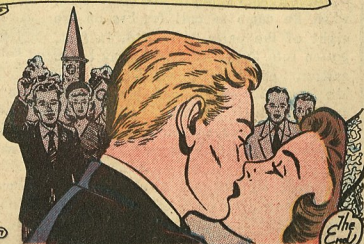


IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST, JUDY -- IT'S THE ONLY SOLUTION!

I... I STILL LOVE HIM-- BUT AS A **DAUGHTER**, NOT A SWEETHEART!



And so, soon afterwards, TODD AND I WERE **MARRIED!** GONE WERE THE SCARS OF THE PAST, AND AS THE MINISTER PRONOUNCED US MAN AND WIFE-- I KNEW TO THE DEPTHS OF MY BEING THAT **THIS** WAS THE MAN I **TRULY** LOVED-- THE MAN I WOULD CHERISH TO THE END OF MY DAYS!



The End!

GIRL ALONE

"I CAN'T GO! I won't go!" Lenore said to herself for the hundredth time. But she knew, of course, that she would go to the party if only she could find a way. And finding a way meant finding a man.

For that was the difficulty. A girl alone...better to stay home, to go to a movie, the library...better than to be a girl alone at a party! Somehow, that was an admission of defeat. But Lenore was new in town, her circle of friends limited to the small staff of the office where she worked.

There was always Ken Lewis, of course, who had hounded her for a date from the instant they had met. He had also asked her to lunch, dinner, dances. But there was something about him, something brash and crude, that made her recoil instinctively, refusing his every invitation.

Now, he seemed like a port in a storm. He would leap, of course, at the idea of escorting her to a party, thinking that she had at last become interested in him. But she could disabuse him of that idea by maintaining a friendly, but formal, distance between them. Yes, she would ask Ken.

There was no doubt of his enthusiasm when he came to call for her on the night of the party. He had, in fact, gotten into the party spirit many hours earlier, as Lenore could tell from his unsteady walk and his blurred speech.

"I've changed my mind, Ken," she pleaded. "I'd rather not go!"

But he had taken a drunken sort of command, hailing a cab, getting her into it, giving the cabdriver direc-

tions in a lordly voice. Lenore shut her eyes and hoped that he would be better at the party. Perhaps the presence of others would sober him, make him behave.

But the presence of others was a stimulant, urging him to show off, encouraging him to take liberties which he would otherwise not have attempted.

"Gimme a kiss, baby," he slurred, seizing Lenore in his arms and pulling her towards him. "C'mon, don't be shtan'-off'sh!"

Ashamed and frightened, Lenore tried to pretend that it was an act, an old joke that she and Ken were enjoying together. But his arms were around her, strong and demanding, and his mouth was close to hers.

Shuddering, she drew back.

"Pardon me," a man said firmly, moving her gently to one side. "This man seems to want some special treatment!" Under the man's guiding hands, Ken wilted, submitting to the pressure of being faced about and marched out of the house.

"He's gone," the man said, returning to Lenore. "He won't trouble you again."

Relief and humiliation flooded Lenore. "I have to go, too," she said, "I'm ashamed...so ashamed..."

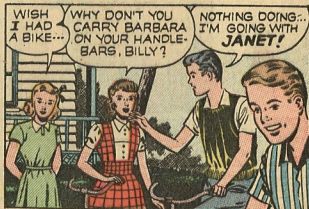
The man looked at her understandingly. "You needn't be," he said and there was reassurance in her voice. "Why not stay a while? I'll take care of you!"

"He would take care of me...he can!" Lenore thought. She was no longer...a girl alone!

ONCE ANOTHER GIRL HAD CLAIMED HIS LOVE... A GIRL FAR LOVELIER AND MORE GLAMOROUS THAN I! WAS I WRONG TO STAKE MY HAPPINESS ON A...

REBOUND Romance

I'M **BARBARA BLAKE**--WHO LEARNED EARLY THAT MANY THINGS WHICH CAME EASILY TO OTHERS WERE BEYOND THE REACH OF A SHY, PLAIN GIRL FROM A POOR FAMILY!



WISH I HAD A BIKE---

WHY DON'T YOU CARRY BARBARA ON YOUR HANDLEBARS, BILLY?

NOTHING DOING... I'M GOING WITH JANET!

AND AS I GREW OLD ENOUGH TO BE INTERESTED IN BOYS, I BEGAN TO NOTICE THAT THE REALLY POPULAR FELLOWS WERE **ALSO** NOT FOR ME!

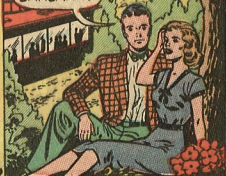
THAT DARN **JANET EVANSON** HAS ANOTHER NEW DRESS--AND A MONOPOLY ON THE BEST-LOOKING BOYS! AND HERE I AM, WITH SKINNY JIM WAGNER AGAIN... WE'LL, I GUESS WE'RE **TWO OF A KIND!**



YES, SKINNY, AWKWARD JIM WAGNER SEEMED TO BE MY LOT! THE BOY THE OTHER GIRLS RIDICULED BECAME MY ONE AND ONLY STEADY DATE!

I... I WISH **MY** FOLKS BELONGED TO THE COUNTRY CLUB, SO I COULD TAKE YOU DANCING THERE, BARBARA!

I... I'D RATHER SIT UP HERE IN THE MOONLIGHT ANYWAY, JIM!



I'M NOT MUCH OF A PRIZE ANYMORE, BARBARA-- BUT I WANT YOU TO **MARRY ME!**

DO YOU REALLY LOVE ME, JIM? OR DID **JANET** TURN YOU DOWN?

HAR



MANAGER
Jim Wagner
Ex-Gold Socks Pitcher

MAYBE IT WAS A HABIT, BUT GRADUALLY I BEGAN LOOKING FORWARD TO MY DATES WITH JIM! I NO LONGER NOTICED HIS PLAIN FACE OR SKINNY ARMS, BUT ONLY THE FINE, HONEST, GENEROUS PERSON HE WAS!



I WISH YOU WEREN'T GOING TO BE AWAY ALL SUMMER, JIM!

I NEED THE MONEY! AND MAYBE WORKING AT THE LUMBER CAMP WILL BUILD ME UP A LITTLE!



MY SUMMER WAS LONELY, AND WHEN JIM RETURNED IN THE FALL I WAS SO GLAD TO SEE HIM THAT I SCARCELY NOTICED HOW MUCH HE HAD CHANGED! BUT OTHER PEOPLE DID--

AM I SEEING THINGS, OR IS THAT JIM WAGNER?

IT'S JIM, ALL RIGHT, BUT WHERE'D HE GET THAT BUILD?



BUT JIM'S NEWLY-DEVELOPED PHYSIQUE WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING! HE TRIED OUT FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM, AND...

WHAT A FAST BALL! JIM'S STRUCK OUT SIX MEN IN A ROW!

THE COACH SAYS HE'S THE BEST PITCHING PROSPECT HE'S EVER SEEN!



WAGNER NO-HITS BATES HIGH!

TOWN HAILS YOUNG PITCHING ACE!

MAJOR LEAGUES SCOUT JIM WAGNER!



AND THEN, ONE NEVER-TO-BE FORGOTTEN EVENING--

GUESS WHAT, BARBARA! A SCOUT FROM THE GOLD SOCKS WAS AT THE GAME THIS AFTERNOON, AND I JUST SIGNED A CONTRACT TO PLAY FOR THEM AFTER GRADUATION!



JIM--HOW MARVELOUS!



FOR ONE THRILLING INSTANT, OUR LIPS MET, AND SUDDENLY I FELT MYSELF ROCKED BY A FLOOD OF ECSTASY THAT TOLD BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT I WAS IN LOVE WITH JIM!



NEXT DAY, I WATCHED FOR JIM AT OUR USUAL MEETING PLACE WITH NEW EAGERNESS, MY HEART A CONFUSED TURMOIL OF EMOTION--



THAT KISS MUST HAVE MEANT AS MUCH TO HIM AS IT DID TO ME--I **KNOW** IT DID! OH, WHY DOESN'T HE **COME**?

THEN-- I'VE INVITED JIM AND SOME OF THE GANG OUT TO THE COUNTRY CLUB TO CELEBRATE JIM'S CONTRACT! --YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME ALONG, BARBARA!



I-- SEE! THANKS, JANET...

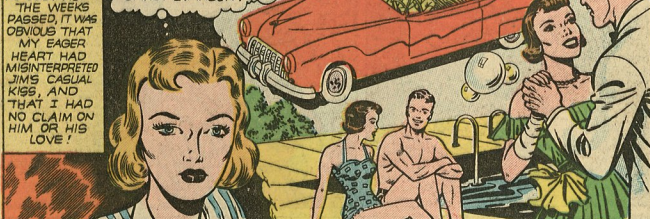
YES, I SAW-- AND A SMALL, ANGUISHED VOICE OF WARNING SOUNDED FEARFULLY IN MY HEART--

MIND IF I BORROW THE HERO FOR A DANCE? OF.. COURSE NOT! GO AHEAD, JIM!



I TRIED TO IGNORE THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL, BUT IT WAS NO USE! AS THE WEEKS PASSED, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT MY EAGER HEART HAD MISINTERPRETED JIM'S CASUAL KISS, AND THAT I HAD NO CLAIM ON HIM OR HIS LOVE!

HE WAS MINE ONLY AS LONG AS NO ONE ELSE WANTED HIM! I SHOULD HAVE **KNOWN** I COULDN'T COMPETE WITH A GLAMOUR GIRL LIKE JANET EVANSON!



AND WHEN JIM LEFT TO JOIN THE GOLD SOCKS, I FOUND MYSELF JUST ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE CROWD OF WELL-WISHERS GATHERED TO SEE HIM OFF!



COME ON, JIM! IF I'M DRIVING YOU TO THE CITY, WE'D BETTER GET STARTED!

COMING, BABY! --WELL, SO LONG BARBARA-- WISH ME LUCK! YOU ALWAYS **WERE** MY BEST ROOTER!

I KNOW --YOU'LL BE A CHAMP AT WHATEVER YOU DO, JIM!

A MORE GLAMOROUS GIRL HAD BECKONED, AND THE MAN I LOVED HAD WALKED OUT OF MY LIFE! WITH DULL RESIGNATION I FACED MY HUM-DRUM FUTURE--



YOU'RE THE MOST EFFICIENT ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN WE EVER HAD!

ASSISTANT IN A SMALL TOWN LIBRARY... THAT'S JUST **MY** SPEED!

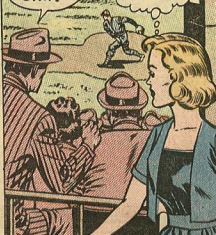


BUT JIM DON'T LEAVE MY THOUGHTS! THE PAPERS TOLD OF HIS SENSATIONAL DEBUT WITH THE GOLD SOCKS, AND WHEN HE TOOK THE MOUND AGAINST THE LEAGUE LEADERS, I MADE THE TRIP TO WATCH!



THAT KID WAGNERS A WIZARD! STRIKE HIM OUT, JIM!

GEE, HE'S WONDERFUL-- BUT WAY OUT OF MY CLASS NOW!



JIM PITCHED A SHUT-OUT! BUT AS I MOVED FORWARD TO CONGRATULATE HIM--

THAT'S JANET EVANSON, THAT RICH DEBUTANTE FROM WAGNER'S HOME TOWN! THE PAPERS SAY THEY'RE GONNA GET HITCHED!

I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL--TURN AROUND AND GO HOME!



THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF JIM'S ENGAGEMENT TO JANET WAS LIKE THE FINAL CLOSING OF A DOOR SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE ME!

HOW COME YOU AREN'T FOLLOWING THE SPORTS PAGES ANYMORE, BARBARA?

NOT MUCH POINT IN IT ANYMORE, I GUESS!



I WITHDREW INTO MYSELF, AVOIDING ALL THE PAINFUL NEWS OF THE APPROACHING MARRIAGE! THEN SUDDENLY, ONE AFTERNOON--

WHY, HELLO, JANET! I... I SUPPOSE I SHOULD CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT TO JIM!

ENGAGEMENT? JIM AND I BROKE UP TWO WEEKS AGO-- I'M ON MY WAY TO EUROPE!



I... I DON'T GET IT! I THOUGHT SHE WAS IN LOVE!

ONLY WITH THE IDEA OF MARRYING A CELEBRITY! WHEN JIM'S ARM WENT DEAD IN THAT GAME A WHILE BACK, SHE CHANGED HER MIND!



I WAS SHOCKED! THE TRAGIC AFTERMATH OF JIM'S ARM INJURY WAS REPORTED IN THE NEXT DAYS PAPERS--

HOW AWFUL! POOR JIM!



A MONTH LATER, AS I WALKED DOWN MAIN STREET--

HELLO, BARBARA ... HOW NICE TO SEE YOU!

WHY, HELLO, JIM ... I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU!

IF HE ONLY KNEW HOW OFTEN I'VE THOUGHT OF HIM!



I'D HEARD THAT YOU WERE THE NEW MANAGER OF NELSON'S HARDWARE... IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE DISAPPOINTMENT TO HAVE YOUR BASEBALL CAREER END SO SUDDENLY!

THAT'S THE WAY THE BREAKS GO! BUT BEING HOME AGAIN HAS **SOME** COMPENSATIONS-- HOW ABOUT HAVING DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT?



I ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION WITH MIXED FEELINGS, HALF AFRAID TO EXPOSE MY SUSCEPTIBLE HEART TO FURTHER HURT--

BAD LUCK SEEMS TO HAVE HIT YOU ALL AT ONCE! I... I HEARD THAT YOU AND JANET HAD SPLIT UP!

I WOULDN'T CALL **THAT** BAD LUCK! I GUESS WE NEVER REALLY LOVED EACH OTHER AT ALL!



BUT THERE WAS **ONE GIRL** MY THOUGHTS KEPT COMING BACK TO, THOSE MONTHS I WAS AWAY... **YOU, BARBARA!** BEING SEPARATED MADE ME REALIZE HOW MUCH **YOU'D** ALWAYS MEANT TO ME!

OH, JIM-- DON'T JOKE!



MAYBE YOU THINK **THIS** IS A JOKE!



THE SLEEPING EMBERS OF MY LOVE WERE SUDDENLY FANNED TO BLAZING ARDOR! LOST IN A SWIRLING MIST OF ECSTASY, I SURRENDERED TO HIS EMBRACE--

BARBARA, YOU'RE SO SWEET, SO WONDERFUL...



JIM WAS **MINE AGAIN!**

I LOST MYSELF IN BLISSFUL HAPPINESS EACH TIME HE HELD ME CLOSE, WHILE I TRIED NOT TO REMEMBER THAT A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO, HE HAD HELD **ANOTHER** GIRL IN HIS ARMS!

I CAN'T HELP WONDERING-- DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT **JANET** ANYMORE?

WHY **SHOULD** I? SHE HADN'T CROSSED MY MIND SINCE I FOUND **YOU** AGAIN!



AND THEN, ONE AFTERNOON--

BARBARA, DARLING, I LOVE YOU! I'M NOT MUCH OF A PRIZE ANYMORE, BUT I WANT YOU TO **MARRY ME!**

OH, JIM, I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU FOR YEARS! OF **COURSE** I'LL MARRY YOU!





NOW THAT YOU'VE PROMISED TO MARRY ME, I HAVE A **SURPRISE** FOR YOU!... **WATCH!**

YOU THREW THAT ROCK LIKE A BULLET! YOUR **ARM...** IT'S GETTING **BETTER!**

I TRIED TO BE **GLAD** THAT JIM'S ARM WAS RECOVERING! BUT AS I WATCHED HIS FIRST COME-BACK ATTEMPT, IN A LOCAL SAND-LOT GAME, MY HEART WAS FILLED WITH ICY UN-**CERTAINTY!**



GUESS JIM'S GOT HIS STUFF BACK, ALL RIGHT!

AND THERE'S **JANET EVANSON!** SHE CAME HOT-FOOTING BACK FROM EUROPE WHEN SHE HEARD ABOUT IT!

MAYBE I WAS JUST A **REBOUND ROMANCE!** MAYBE NOW THAT HE'LL BE ON TOP AGAIN, HE AND JANET WILL **MAKE UP!**

THE GOLD SOCKS RECALLED JIM FOR SPRING TRAINING IN FLORIDA! MY FEARFUL HEART COULD NOT FORGET THE **LAST TIME** HE'D GONE AWAY--

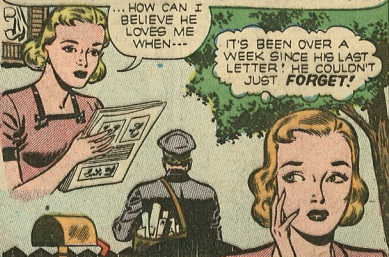


I'LL BE IN SARASOTA MYSELF NEXT WEEK, JIM... I'LL SEE YOU THERE! WE **ARE** STILL **FRIENDS**, AREN'T WE?

WHY... WHY, SURE, JANET! SHE'S TRYING TO WIN HIM BACK... AND HE DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE IT! --- OR **DOES HE?**

WITH JIM GONE, I WATCHED WITH MORBID FASCINATION FOR EACH NEW SIGN THAT I WAS LOSING HIM AGAIN--

"AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT WEALTHY JANET EVANSON'S SARASOTA BEACH PARTY WAS OLD FLAME JIM WAGNER."



...HOW CAN I BELIEVE HE LOVES ME WHEN---

IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK SINCE HIS LAST LETTER! HE COULDN'T JUST **FORGET!**

AND EVEN AFTER THE GOLD SOCKS HAD RETURNED--

SORRY I CAN'T COME HOME FOR THE WEEK-END, BARBARA, BUT WHY DON'T YOU COME HERE? JANET IS GIVING A BIG PARTY FOR THE TEAM--



I... I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE IT, JIM!

I HAD PROMISED JIM I'D BE AT HIS OPENING GAME! BUT AS I PREPARED TO LEAVE--

I HAD TO SEE YOU, BARBARA! JIM AND I... WELL, SURELY YOU MUST HAVE SUSPECTED THAT HE REALLY LOVED **ME** ALL ALONG! HE WANTS TO MARRY ME, BUT HE'S AFRAID OF HURTING YOU!

HOW-HOW CAN I BE CERTAIN YOU'RE TELLING ME THE **TRUTH?**



THIS PICTURE SHOULD CONVINCE YOU! I KNOW YOU WON'T WANT TO HOLD HIM AGAINST HIS WISHES! BUT YOU KNOW JIM... HE'S TOO CONSIDERATE TO LEAVE YOU FIRST!

HE WON'T **HAVE** TO LEAVE ME... I'LL BREAK OUR EN-GA-GEMENT MYSELF!



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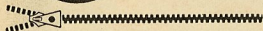
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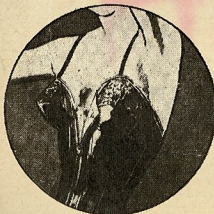
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